COMMON CORE:

CCSS work cannot and should not be separated from work by PLCs on RTI and WNFA. Because all are inextricably connected we have spent our time this past year unpacking the standards to see how the CCSS impacted our *Cold Springs K-5 Literacy Initiative.* This initiative incorporates writing in the non-fiction areas of science and social studies with PLC work on Smart Goals using common assessments.

Common Core Team will use our January 10th PD time to re-visit the importance of using text-dependent questions (as well share additional LiveBinder resources) with all teachers. We will open our whole group discussion with the handout (Guide to Creating Text-Dependent Questions) with important elements of the handout highlighted. We will then break into PLCs for reflection and assessment of how each PLC is incorporating the use of text-dependent questions in Writer’s Workshop, WNFA, and expanded response practice in math.

2012 - 2013 Action Plan

Days out of the classroom have been determined to be in direct conflict with the overreaching goal of student achievement for all students. In this regard the Cold Springs School community will limit and focus professional development activities that support improving and addressing identified staff needs and protect student/teacher contact time. We have determined through research and our own achievement data that the use of substitute teachers has a negative impact on student achievement.

-Coaching will continue in the areas of writing, Reading Mastery, and RTI

-Each teacher will observe four colleagues by Spring 2013 and share their reflection with principal

-Every teacher will complete all of the required DMI courses by May 2013

-PLC book studies focused on the writing process are under way

-Weekly PLC data analysis tied to Smart Goal Common Assessment focused on WNFA (WRITING IN THE NON-FICTION AREAS) K-5 will be monitored and reported to parents monthly

-Non-Fiction materials will continue to be enhanced

-Use of LiveBinder and other useful online resources have been taught to assist in our 2nd year roll out of CCSS (COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS). We have determined that knowledge gives way to courage and then to innovation.

-Representatives from each PLC will assist in all PD/PIR planning

Time is set aside each week for PLCs to meet and grow as a small learning community. Weekly PD time is set aside for PLC work. Each PLC will operate using MCPS Five Measureable School District Goals; Cold Springs goals; and the *Six Elements of 21st Century Learning* as a guide.

-book studies will continue

This year each PLC will focus on the expansion of Writer's Workshop in every grade level in the non-fiction areas of our curriculum using the CCSS as our guide. This is new and will take coordination by each teacher with the help of a writing coach. In our study of the CCSS we found common ground and agreed to use the new Common Core Writing Standards as our benchmark for WNFA.

A writing coach will meet with each grade level PLC throughout the year and spend time in each classroom. Each PLC will design rubrics for common assessments in the area of WNFA and meet with principal for share out of results and planning.

Days are set aside throughout the year for K-5 reflection and share out on Smart Goal progress by each PLC.

-Use of LiveBinder and other useful online resources have been taught to assist in our 2nd year roll out of CCSS. We have determined that knowledge gives way to courage and then to innovation.

-Training will continue on the effective use of MAP data using a specialist.

Every staff member participated in two full days of training in August which included the following:

-Completion of Common Core State Standards unpacking by each grade level PLC (this work was started during the 2011-2012 school year)

-PLC meetings with writing coach on Writer's Workshop focused on WNFA (Cold Springs Literacy Initiative)

-PLC meetings with Reading Mastery specialist on reading interventions - all grade levels

-Staff training on the use of Data using a MAP specialist

-Each PLC came up with a plan of how the CCSS will support WNFA and Writer’s Workshop K-5 tied to CS Literacy Initiative

A full day in September was set aside for PLC reflection and assessment of progress toward WNFA goals using the writing elements of CCSS. A full day of PD in April will be committed to CCSS roll out progress and goal setting.

Through our expanded Writing in the Non-Fiction Areas (WNFA) and *K-5 Literacy Initiative* we will connect learning to the real world through literature, experiences and writing to increase student engagement, motivation, and investment in their learning. Our *K-5 Literacy Initiative* will use writing to integrate IEFA Essential Understandings into the science and social studies curriculum for every child.